

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00716 231301Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 /077 W

----- 048291

O 231220Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3517

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0716

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: DEATH OF TWO AMERICANS

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 10190

B. ASMARA 0714

1. LOCATION OF MINE WHICH CAUSED DEATHS OF BROWN AND TROWER
SUCH THAT IT NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE CONCLUDE U.S. NATIONALS DIRECT
TARGET. ACCESS TO TRACT D REQUIRES TRAVEL SOUTH ALONG PAVED
ROAD TO ADI UGRI FOR ABOUT 6 KM THEN WEST ON UNPAVED
ROAD FOR 6 KMS. ROAD CONTINUES PAST ENTRANCE ROAD TO
TRACT D FOR ANOTHER 10 KMS TO MAIN ASMARA RESERVOIR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00716 231301Z

WHICH PROTECTED BY CONTINGENT 2ND DIV. TROOPS, WHICH ALSO

CONDUCT RANDOM PATROLS OF AREA INCLUDING VICINITY TRACT D.

2. MINE EMPLACED AT POINT ON UNPAVED ROAD LEADING TO TRACT D AND RESERVOIR ABOUT 3 KMS OFF ADI UGRI ROAD ON LEFT SIDE OF ROAD, I.E., SIDE ON WHICH VEHICLES MOVING OUT TO ADI UGRI ROAD WOULD BE LOCATED. IT EVIDENT THAT MINE COULD HAVE BEEN DETONATED BY ANY VEHICLE, EPMG ARMY OR USG, HEADED FOR ADI UGRI ROAD FROM RESERVOIR OR FROM TRACT D. HAD MINE BEEN EMPLACED BEYOND ENTRANCE TO TRACT D IN DIRECTION RESERVOIR, INTENT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN TO HARM EPMG FORCES. BY EMPLACING IT BEFORE ENTRANCE TO TRACT D REACHED, THUS ALSO ENDANGERING AMERICANS, AND IN EVENT KILLING TWO OF THEM, INSURGENTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED EITHER INDIFFERENCE TO POSSIBLE EFFECT ON AMERICANS OR IGNORANCE THAT AMERICANS REGULARLY TRAVEL THIS ROAD TO AND FROM TRACT D. LATTER DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT BU CONCEIVABLE IN VIEW GENERALLY LOW LEVEL EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE ON PART OF LOCAL INSURGENT UNITS AND THEIR LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS.

3. ARMY HAD RECENTLY IMPOSED SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF ROAD TO TRACT D FOLLOWING JULY 23 DECISION TO CLOSE ALL ROADS INTO AND OUT OF ASMARA TO UNESCORTED VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. IN VIEW NEED FOR CISCO PERSONNEL TO VISIT TRACT D DAILY, ARMY ISSUED PASSES FOR MINIMUM NUMBER KAGNEW VEHICLES WHICH HAD PERMISSION GO TO TRACT D AT SPECIFIC TIMES DURING THE DAY. AFTER SOME INITIAL HITCHES, ARRANGEMENT APPEARED TO BE WORKING SATISFACTORILY. WE TOLD THAT EPMG FORCES, BOTH ARMY AND AIR FORCE, GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO ENGAGE ANY UNIDENTIFIED VEHICLE NOT IN CONVOY ON ANY ROADS INTO AND OUT OF ASMARA AND FOR WHICH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS NOT MADE, AS IN CASE KAGNEW VEHICLES TO TRACT D.

3. AS FOR SECURITY TRACT D ITSELF, IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT NAVCOMMUNIT/CISCO, WITH CONCURRENCE CONGEN, AGREED THAT ULTIMATELY SECURITY TRACT D DEPENDED MORE ON GOOD WILL SURROUNDING VILLAGERS, ALL OF WHOM INSURGENT SYMPATHIZERS, THAN ON ANY OTHER FACTOR. ANY CONCENTRATION EPMG FORCES AT SITE WOULD HAVE ENDANGERED VILLAGERS AND THUS ERODED THEIR SUPPORT FOR AMERICANS AND WOULD HAVE CONVERTED TRACT INTO READY TARGET FOR INSURGENT ATTACK. RANDOM PATROLS BY EPMG FORCES MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN WORTHWHILE, BUT IT OBVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASMARA 00716 231301Z

IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR SECURITY FORCES TO PREVENT EMPLACEMENT MINES ON DIRT ROAD. AS HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN POINTED OUT, IT WITHIN INSURGENT CAPABILITY NOT ONLY TO CONDUCT HIT-AND-RUN RAIDS BUT TO ENGAGE IN VIRTUALLY ANY TYPE SMALL-SCALE ACTIVITY UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS. SUGGEST WE INDICATE FRANKLY TO PRESS THAT SITUATION IN ERITREA NO DIFFERENT THAN THAT IN ANY OTHER AREA SUBJECT TO ACTIVE INSURGENCY; E.G., NORTHERN IRELAND, WHERE BOMBS, MINES, AND OTHER

LETHAL DEVICES CAN BE EMPLACED VIRTUALLY AT WILL BY INSURGENTS
NOTWITHSTANDING BEST EFFORTS SECURITY FORCES.

4. NAVCOMMUNIT/CISCO AND CONGEN CONCERTING ALL THEIR EFFORTS IN
DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION. WILL REPORT FURTHER AS REQUIRED.
SHERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLOSIVES, REPORTS, ACCIDENTAL DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750292-1070
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750822/aaaaatka.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ADDIS ABABA 10190
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATH OF TWO AMERICANS
TAGS: PINS, ET, (TROWER, WILLIAM DENNIS), (BROWN, ALLWORTH RICHARD JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006